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similar to those of *A. linearifolia*, but the involucre is very different.—  
JOHN M. COULTER AND J. N. ROSE.

**Anæsthetics and Transpiration.**—Mr. C. P. Lommen finds that Jumelle's results regarding the influence of anæsthetics upon transpiration in green plants may be obtained quantitatively by the simple method of weighing on the analytical balance at intervals of a few hours. Sprigs of *Selaginella rupestris* Spring, were employed in a series of experiments, and the percentage of water lost under glass in darkness and in light, with and without ether, corresponded with Jumelle's general results as chronicled in the *Revue Generale de Botanique*, October, 1890. This affords a very simple and easy method of demonstrating the relation between transpiration and assimilation.—CONWAY MACMILLAN, *University of Minnesota*.

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## EDITORIAL.

Most advanced college students now-a-days are expected to secure some personal freedom of judgment by the independent investigation of a suitable subject. The larger part of such efforts do not rise to the plane of an addition to recorded knowledge, but serve at the time to assist the student in his mental development. A strong student with the necessary preliminary training, however, may do work of scientific value, if it is properly planned and directed by the teacher in charge. But whether of value or not from the scientific point of view, if reasonable success is attained the work must be well outlined at the start, and to do this often taxes the teacher's resources. If he is interested in mycology, the natural tendency is to turn students into that line of work, if in embryological development, into that work, and so on. This secures the best assistance from the teacher, but does not always bring to light the pupil's special talents or aptitude where he is most likely to excel. An inability to successfully manage the delicate manipulations required for high class histological work, stands in the way of fair success for many students, and for several years past our laboratories have chiefly cultivated this field of research. The work outlined for the student should be adapted not only to his knowledge and maturity of judgment, but to his skill as a manipulator, and to do this the selection must be made through a wide range of topics. There is a field of research of absorbing interest, crowded with unsolved problems, and in which the use of the microscope can be largely dispensed with, hitherto much overlooked, and that is the physiology of movement in plants. The changes in position of leaves, stems and roots due to gravitation, heat, light,